

Illinois Optometric Association

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November 5, 2008

Susan Meister
Division of Legal Services
Illinois Department of Public Health
535 W. Jefferson St., 5th Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re:
Notice of Proposed Amendments
Title 77: Public Health
Chapter I: Department of Public Health
Subchapter 1: Maternal and Child Health
Part 665 Child Health Examination Code

Dear Ms. Meister,

Recent reports from our membership would indicate that a charitable organization has undertaken a petition drive to request the Department to adopt an alternate eye examination form as a part of the above referenced rule. While we are not aware of the Department's position on having more than one form, we would like to provide input on such an addition to the rule, if one is being considered.

First, the Department's current form, as proposed in rule, reflects the eye examination required in the law and is in accord with the agreement that was brokered with all involved parties by the bill's sponsor, Representative Jil Tracy. It is a relatively simple form that insures that a child receives a complete eye examination while satisfying the documentation needs of the doctor and the school system. It worked well in this first year of use and we see no reason to alter or add to it.

Second, if the Department is going to consider a non-standard alternative form, they should do so with the realization that many groups, both private and commercial, may also ask to have their forms approved. Given this, we would request that in addition to an orderly application process for approval of the forms, the following requirements be placed in rule:

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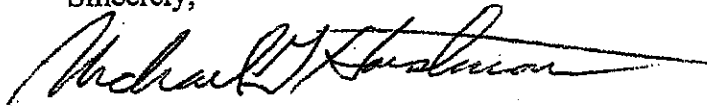
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1. That the form must at a minimum reflect the examination required in the law.
2. That the form indicate that each of the required tests have been performed and the results thereof.
3. That the sequence be consistent with the normal flow of an eye examination.
4. That if the form contains examination requirements that exceed the law, they be clearly marked "Not required" on the form.
5. That forms may not be copyrighted and must be available for public use without charge to either parents or the school districts.
6. That the form may not contain advertising or fund solicitations and that any mailing containing the form also be so restricted.
7. That no type of enticement may be used to solicit a district or a parent to use an alternate form.
8. That only the Official State of Illinois Form will be posted on the Department's and the State Board of Education's websites and that they will be the only form distributed by the State.

We also would hope that the Department would consult with the primary users of any alternative form prior to implementing its use. We remain extremely concerned about the confusion, lack of coordination and expense that a multi-formed system will create and question the necessity.

We appreciate all of the Departments effort in implementing this bill and the acceptance of our input in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Horstman
Executive Director

cc: Vicki Thomas JCAR
Members JCAR
Senator Emil Jones
Senator Frank Watson
Speaker Michael Madigan
Representative Tom Cross